

Don't Miss "Kwanzaa: Who Should Celebrate?"

An interactive, 30-40 minute introduction, recitation, motivational talk and question and answer, by Dr. Ernece B Kelly.

Date: Sat., Dec. 29, 2007

Where: Riverfront Library

Time: 2:00 pm

The Yonkers African American Heritage Committee & the YWCA of Yonkers Present:

2007 Celebration of Kwanzaa

Free Admission—African Drumming, Music, Poetry, Vendors Refreshments to be served.

Date: Dec. 28, 2007

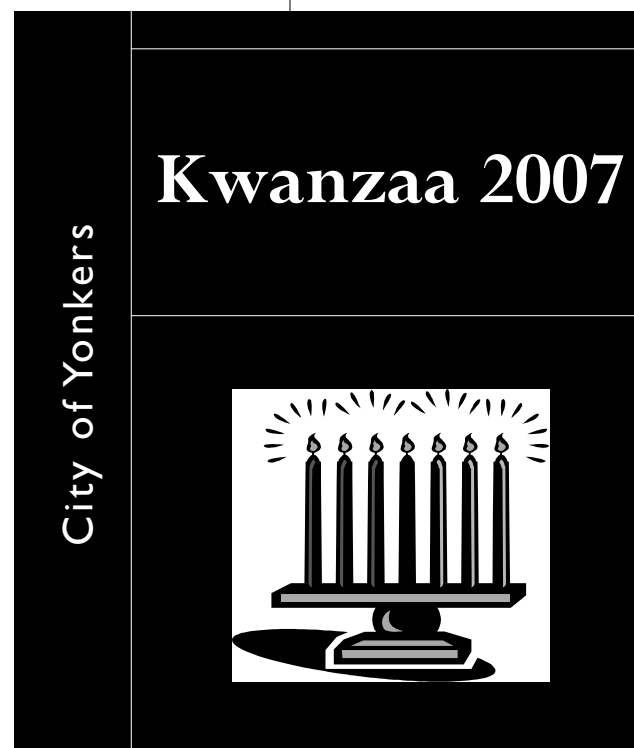
**Where: YWCA of Yonkers /
87 So. Broadway**

Time: 6 PM to 9 PM

Mayor Philip Amicone

And

Majority Leader Patricia McDow



December 27, 2007

4 pm

Kwanzaa

Elected Officials

Philip A. Amicone, Mayor of Yonkers

*Patricia D. McDow, Majority Leader
Yonkers City Council Member District One*

Performance

The Children's Choir of Nepperhan Community Center

Candle Lighting Ceremony

Performance

A reading by: Lynn Beville

The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

December 26th Unity (Umoja)
27th Self-Determination (Kujichagulia)
28th Collective Work & Responsibility (Ujima)
29th Cooperative Economics (Ujamaa)
30th Purpose (Nia)
31st Creativity (Kuumba)
January 1st Faith (Imani)

Kwanzaa Symbols

MKEKA (M-KAY-KAH) **MAT**

It is the symbol of history and tradition. Tradition and history are the foundations on which a society is built. Kwanzaa symbols are placed upon the *mkeka* (mat).

VIBUNZI (VE-BOON-ZE) **EARS OF CORN**

Each house places on the *mkeka* as many *vibunzi* (ears of corn) as it has children. Even if the household has no children, at least one ear of corn is placed beside the *kinara* to represent the potential for children. Kwanzaa serves to reinforce the relationship between parents and children because it is with the children that our hopes for the future rest. It is the parent who must guide and instruct the child toward principles and values which strengthen the family and aid its progress.

MAZAO (MAH-ZAH-OW) **CROPS**

Represents the historical roots of Kwanzaa as a harvest of "first fruit" celebration. Mazao represents the rewards of collective and productive labor. Since most urban dwellers do not harvest crops, fresh fruits and vegetables are used to represent mazao in the Kwanzaa setting.

MISUMAA SABA (ME-SHOO-MAAH-SAH-BAH) **SEVEN CANDLES**

The seven candles represent the *Nguzo Saba*. Of the seven, one is black, three red, and three green. The black candle goes in the center with the three red on the left and the three green on the right. The black candle is lit first. Beginning with the second day the candles are lit on the left and the right alternately. The red candles represent the struggle and the green candles represent the fruitful future. The practice of lighting the red and the green candles is a statement of the fact that there can be no future until there is a struggle. Each candle lit the previous day is re-lit along with the candle of the day until the last candle has been lit on the last day of Kwanzaa.

KIKOMBA CHA UMOJA (KE-KOM-BAH CHAH OO-MO-JAH) **UNITY CUP**

The Unity Cup symbolizes the foundation principle of the *Nguzo Saba*, *Umoja* (Unity). Used to pour *Tambiko* (*Tahm-be-ko*) -Libation for Our ancestors-it is then drunk by each member of the immediate or extended family. This is a gesture of honor, praise and a commitment to continue the struggle they began.

ZAWADI (ZAH-WAH-DEE) **GIFTS**

A book and/or heritage symbol (African art or picture of African-American hero.)

BENDARA (BEN-DA-RA) **NATIONAL FLAG**

Red, Black, Green: represents the African-American people, continuing to struggle, and youth who are our future and hope.